

Remarks

I. Status of the Claims

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 89-173 are pending in the application, with claims 89, 91, 93, 98-103, 105, 106, 108, 109, 117, 118 and 122-124 being the independent claims. New claims 155-173 are sought to be added. Claims 89-103, 105, 106, 108, 109, 117, 118, and 122-134 are sought to be amended. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the foregoing amendment and the Remarks set forth in the Supplemental Amendment and Reply filed on November 7, 2002, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the outstanding rejection and that it be withdrawn.

II. Telephonic Interviews with the Examiner

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the telephonic interviews conducted with the undersigned on March 31, 2003 and April 14, 2003, during which the status of this application and proposed claim amendments were discussed.

III. Support for Amended and New Claims

Support for amended claim 89 can be found throughout the specification, for example, at page 4, lines 13-17, and at page 5, lines 6-10. Support for amended claim 90 can be found throughout the specification, for example, at page 20, lines 7-11. Support for amended claim 91 can be found throughout the specification, for example at page 4, lines

13-17 and lines 22-26. Support for the amendment to claim 92 can be found throughout the specification, for example, at page 3, line 25 through page 4, line 3. Support for amended claim 93 can be found throughout the specification, for example, at page 3, line 25 through page 4, line 3, and at page 4, lines 22-26. Support for amended claims 124-126 can be found throughout the specification, for example, at page 32, line 26 through page 33, line 14. Support for amended claims 127-134 can be found throughout the specification, for example, at page 23, lines 14-29. Support for new claim 155 can be found throughout the specification, for example, at page 20, lines 7-11. Support for new claim 156 can be found throughout the specification, for example, at page 19, line 8. Support for new claim 157 can be found throughout the specification, for example, at page 18, lines 8-11. Support for new claims 158 and 159 can be found throughout the specification, for example, at page 8, lines 20-28. Support for new claim 160 can be found throughout the specification, for example, at page 23, lines 27-29. Support for new claims 161-173 can be found throughout the specification, for example, at page 23, lines 20-22.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Supplemental Amendment is respectfully
requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Frank R. Cottingham".

Frank R. Cottingham
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 50,437

Date: June 11, 2003

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600